

REMARKS

As an initial matter, Applicant is grateful to the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter for claims 45-53, 63 and 69. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 55-59 and 65-66 have been amended. Claims 1-44, 54, 63-64 and 69 have been cancelled without prejudice. Therefore, claims 45-53, 55-62 and 65-68 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 55, 56, 62 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vancraeynest, U.S. Patent No. 5,093,841 (“Vancraeynest”), in view of Cui et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,111,910 (“Cui”).

Claims 57-59, 54 and 64-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vancraeynest, in view of Cui, in further view of Bustamante et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,375,140 (“Bustamante”).

Claims 60-61 and 67 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Vancraeynest, in view of Cui, in further view of Bustamante, in further view of Sawahashi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,768,306 (“Sawahashi”).

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner’s characterization of the references. However, for the sake of expediting issuance of this case, Applicant cancels claim 54 without prejudice. Furthermore, independent claims 55 and 56 have been amended to include the allowable limitations from one or more of claims 63, 64 and 69 as recommended by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 55 and 56 and their dependent claims be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

Invitation for a Telephone Interview

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.


Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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